

Dynamic Christian Living

Dynamic Christian Living: Essentials for Believers

Written by Frank Hamrick

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Preface

Each of us begins life with so many needs—nutrition, love, and care. It's easy to see why many New Testament Scriptures compare our spiritual growth with the physical. As Christians, we depend entirely on God to flourish and serve.

In John 3, Christ describes the baptism of the Spirit as a second birth.

In 1 Peter 2:2, the apostle encourages believers to seek God's grace and truth like a newborn seeks a mother's milk.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16–19, Paul challenges believers to abide continually in God's grace, praying and giving thanks without ceasing.

In Mark 16:15, Christ commands His disciples to share His truth and love with others.

And in 1 Corinthians 10:31, Paul notes that God's grace should inform everything that we do. Even as we eat and drink, we can choose to reflect or reject God's light.

As you work through this study, we pray that God would work in each of your hearts. Our faith doesn't rest on our ability to recite facts or to do good works—however helpful that can be—but rather, we seek a close relationship with God. Through His grace, and His grace alone, we can explore and enjoy the new life we have in Him.

In This Study

»Notes from the Teacher’s Lesson

Included is a brief outline that your teacher should cover in class. As you listen to your teacher, fill in the blanks provided, and look up the Scripture references in your Bible.

»Student Work

Each chapter in this study includes some reading and exercises that you will likely complete by yourself outside of class. As you read and analyze passages from Scripture, you will record your findings and thoughts in the blanks provided. These exercises should increase your understanding of the material covered by your teacher. As you complete this work, be sure to note any questions you might have for your teacher—or any topics you might like to study further.

»Application Activities

Your teacher may assign some of the extra activities listed at the end of each chapter. These include reading assignments and short writing projects that will encourage you to examine your beliefs in light of Scripture.

»Testing and Evaluation

Your teacher will explain testing policies and expectations for your class. Quiz and test questions may relate to your student exercises, the teacher’s lesson, or both. Your teacher may also ask you to memorize passages of Scripture that relate to each lesson.

Scripture Memorization Report Sheet

WEEK	SCRIPTURE	DUE DATE	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
1	John 3:18		
2	Ephesians 2:8–9		
3	Acts 16:30–31		
4	REVIEW		
5	2 Timothy 3:16–17		
6	2 Peter 1:21		
7	Hebrews 1:1–2		
8	REVIEW		
9	Psalms 119:9, 11		
10	Psalms 1:2		
11	Psalms 19:9–10		
12	REVIEW		
13	John 14:13		
14	1 John 1:9		
15	Ephesians 6:18		
16	REVIEW		
17	2 Chronicles 7:14		
18	Matthew 6:9–11		
19	Matthew 6:12–13		
20	REVIEW		
21	Romans 3:10–12, 23		
22	Romans 5:8; 6:23		
23	REVIEW		
24	John 3:16		
25	Romans 10:9		
26	1 Corinthians 15:3–4		
27	REVIEW		
28	2 Corinthians 3:18		
29	Titus 2:11–12		
30	Matthew 6:33		
31	REVIEW		
32	Proverbs 3:5–6		
33	1 Corinthians 13:4–8		
34	Ephesians 4:15–16		
35	REVIEW		



Birth

SALVATION

Birth is the first step to growth. A baby leaves the familiar comfort of the womb where she is kept safe, warm, and fed, and rushes into a world full of strange sensations. Although unpleasant and disruptive, birth is necessary for every infant to flourish and enjoy life to the fullest.

The Bible refers to salvation as the “new birth.” When we receive salvation, we begin a new, abundant spiritual life (John 10:10). We pass from eternal condemnation and spiritual death to the confident hope of eternal life (1 John 3:14). Our new life in Christ gives us a desire for God (Col. 3:1–2) and evidences itself in love and obedience to Him (1 John 3:7). Only in Christ can we escape sin’s bondage and flourish spiritually.



LESSON 1

What's Salvation All About? (Part 1)

Teacher's Lesson

» What Is Salvation?

- *To save* literally means “to **rescue** _____ or **set free** _____.”

» Why Does God Offer Salvation?

- God cares about our **need** _____
 - **Prisoners** _____ of sin
 - Guilty and **condemned** _____
 - Sick, **blind** _____, and weak
- God cares about His **glory** _____
 - Christ's incarnation
 - Christ's **death** _____ on the cross
 - » A demonstration of God's **love** _____
 - » A demonstration of God's **grace** _____
 - Christ's **resurrection** _____

» How Does God Provide Salvation?

- A **Deliverer** _____ for the prisoners of sin (Heb. 2:14–15)
- A **Substitute** _____ for the condemned (1 Pet. 2:24)
- A **Healer** _____ for the sick (Luke 4:18–21)
- Our response: **believe** _____ (Acts 16:31)

» What Are the Results of Salvation?

- **Freedom** _____ instead of imprisonment
 - Freedom from sin's **penalty** _____
 - Freedom from sin's **power** _____
 - Freedom from sin's **dominion** _____
- **Power** _____ instead of weakness
 - Power to live righteously
 - Power to resist the temptation to sin
 - Power not to fear death

Word Power

- » **Salvation**—deliverance from the penalty and power of sin
- » **Incarnation**—Christ becoming fully human
- » **Regeneration**—the “new birth”; the act by which God gives us new, spiritual life
- » **Repentance**—the act of changing one’s mind, thought, purpose, and views regarding a matter
- » **Faith**—belief; confident trust
- » **Condemnation**—a sentence to punishment for a crime
- » **Substitute**—one who takes the place of another

Student Work

To help us understand what salvation is all about, we will spend the first two lessons studying seven major terms that are associated with salvation—three in this lesson and four in the next lesson.

» Repentance

The word *repent* means to change one's mind, thought, purpose, and views regarding a matter. It means turning away from one direction so that you can begin to move in the opposite direction.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:8–10. In his greeting to the Thessalonians, Paul commends these believers for their testimony. Their conversion was divided into a distinct *before* and *after*.

- To whom did the Thessalonians turn (v. 9)? **God** _____
- From what did they turn (v. 9)? **Idols** _____
- What activities did turning to Christ include (vv. 9–10)?
Serving God and waiting for Jesus' return _____
- Which came first, turning *to* or turning *from*?
They turned to Christ first. _____

Notice that turning *to* Christ is necessary in order to really turn *from* sin. A person may turn *from* sin without turning *to* the Lord. This isn't true repentance; it's reformation. Many people make an attempt to clean up their lives, but in doing so, never accept the Lord. They may seem to make some progress by modifying their behavior, but without Christ, their hearts are still locked in the grip of sin.

However, if a person turns *to* Christ, then he or she will turn *from* sin by necessity. Christ will not tolerate sin. We can't hold onto our sin while accepting Jesus. So the emphasis of biblical repentance is not on turning *from* sin as much as it is on turning *to* Christ.

Hymn writer Helen Lemmel reflects this idea in her hymn, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.”

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
in the light of His glory and grace.*

When we see our sin the way God sees it and accept Christ, then we will stop pursuing sin.

Repentance Evokes Emotion

Repentance isn't just cold, intellectual assent to facts. It affects our whole person.

Read 2 Corinthians 7:9–10.

- How does a realistic view of sin make us feel?
It produces grief or sorrow over our sin.
- But experiencing regret or feeling sorry about our sin doesn't necessarily mean that we have repented. What does God intend these feelings to prompt us toward?
Repentance that leads to salvation

Repentance Is God's Will

Read 2 Peter 3:8–10. God's timing is not our timing. Because He created time and controls it, He's not bound to it like we humans are. We may question why Christ has not yet returned to Earth, but the answer is that He has His own timing.

- What reason does Peter give for Christ waiting to return (v. 9)?
He desires all people to repent.
- What does God not desire (v. 9)?
He doesn't desire that anyone should perish.
- According to Acts 17:30, what does God command to all people?
Repent

- In Luke 13:1–5, what does Christ say will happen to those who won't repent?

They will all perish.

Repentance Is Given by God

Read 2 Timothy 2:24–26. When we share the gospel, we shouldn't have an argumentative attitude. Instead, we should try to teach with love and gentleness.

- Who gives repentance? God
- To what does godly repentance lead?
It leads to knowledge of the truth.
- According to Romans 2:4, what is the purpose of God's goodness to us?
He intends His goodness to lead us to repentance.

» Faith

According to Acts 20:21, faith is required for repentance. God commands us to repent, and He leads us to repent. Yet we must respond by choosing to believe Him. Faith for repentance includes accepting the truth of Christ, and choosing to rely on Him completely. Without faith, there can be no true repentance.

Read the following verses and record the results of exercising faith.

- Acts 26:18, Romans 6:22—Sanctification
- Romans 5:1—Justification
- Galatians 3:26—Becoming children of God
- 1 Peter 1:5—Salvation

»Regeneration

Through regeneration, God gives us a new, divine life.

Read John 3:3. Christ tells Nicodemus that no one can see God's kingdom without regeneration.

- According to this verse, how is regeneration described?
It's described as being born again.

How is regeneration described in the following verses?

- John 5:24—Passed from death to life
- 2 Corinthians 5:17—The old life is gone; the new life has come.

Who regenerates us, according to the following verses?

- John 1:12-13—Regeneration is not done by human will or strength, but by God.
- John 3:6-7—The Holy Spirit

What does God use to regenerate us?

- James 1:18—He uses His will through the Word of God.
- 1 Peter 1:23—He uses the Word of God.



LESSON 2

What's Salvation All About? (Part 2)

Teacher's Lesson

» The Necessity of Salvation

- God is **holy** _____, but people are **sinners** _____
- God lives in **heaven** _____, but sinners must go to **hell** _____
- God **loves** _____ people, but people naturally **hate** _____ God

» The Definition of Salvation

- **Regeneration** _____ (John 3:3)—“rebirth”
- **Redemption** _____ (1 Pet. 1:18–19)—“to buy back or regain something”
 - The price of redemption: Christ’s death
 - The result of redemption: no longer slaves to sin
- **Remission** _____ (Heb. 9:22)—“a reduction; a cancellation of a debt”
- **Justification** _____ (Acts 13:38–39)—“a declaration of righteousness”
 - The forgiveness of sin

- The imputation of righteousness
 - » *Impute* means “to **credit** _____ something to a person”
 - **Reconciliation** _____ (2 Cor. 5:18)—“restoration to friendship or harmony”
-
-

Word Power

- » **Righteousness**—holiness; God’s moral standard
 - » **Regeneration**—rebirth; the act by which God gives us new, spiritual life
 - » **Redemption**—the act of buying back or regaining
 - » **Remission**—a reduction; a cancellation of a debt
 - » **Justification**—a declaration of righteousness
 - » **Imputation**—the act of crediting something to a person
 - » **Reconciliation**—restoration to friendship or harmony
-
-

Student Work

In our last lesson, we studied three terms associated with salvation. Using your own words, define them.

- Repentance: **Answers will vary.** _____

- Faith: **Answers will vary.** _____

- Regeneration: **Answers will vary.** _____

In this lesson, we will study four additional terms related to salvation.

»Redemption

Redemption means “to purchase or buy back.” In 1 Peter 1:18–19, this word means “to set free by the payment of a ransom.” It calls to mind a person in the first century who might buy a slave and then set that slave free.

- According to Titus 2:13–14, from what did Christ redeem us? Sin
- Since Christ has bought us back from sin, should we continue to sin? No
- Why did He redeem us?
He redeemed us to purify us and make us His own.

Christ purchased us for Himself. We belong to Him. Because He owns us, sin no longer rules us.

Think About It

- Are you redeemed? Answers will vary.
- What did Christ do in order to redeem us?
He died on the cross and gave Himself for us.
- In what ways does your life reflect Christ’s ownership?
Answers will vary.

The Price of Redemption

- According to Galatians 3:13, from what are we redeemed?
We’re redeemed from the curse of the law—condemnation for sin.

Christ removed the curse by becoming a curse for us. He took our place.

The Result of Redemption

- According to 1 Corinthians 6:19–20, what do we become after redemption?
We become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

- Who owns your body? God _____
- Why does He own it?
He bought it.

- What should we do since we have been purchased by God?
We should honor and glorify God with our bodies.

»Remission

Remission means “to put away or to do away with.” In salvation, it means that God has canceled, or forgiven, our sin debt.

Read Luke 24:44–48. After Christ’s resurrection, He appeared to His disciples and gave them His final message before He ascended back into heaven. He was the living proof that He had fulfilled the prophetic words spoken before His death.

- Why can the message of forgiveness be preached?
It can be preached because Christ died and rose again.

- For whom is this message of repentance?
It’s for all nations.

Preaching repentance to all nations, however, is more than a “responsibility.” It is a great privilege! We should be so thrilled and excited about this glorious Savior that we would want the whole world to know about Him.

How Is Our Sin Remitted?

In Acts 2:38, Peter preached to the Jews and explained how they might receive forgiveness for sin.

- What did Peter say they must do?

He said they needed to repent and be baptized._____

And in Acts 10:43, Peter states that, in order to receive forgiveness, the Gentiles must believe in Christ.

- What does God's law require for remission (Heb. 9:22)?

It requires shed blood._____

- Whose blood do you think this verse is talking about?

It refers to Jesus' blood._____

- According to Hebrews 10:14, 17–18, how many times must a sacrifice be offered for our sin? **Once**_____

» Justification

To justify means “to declare one innocent or righteous.” Only a judge can legally declare someone just. Because it is God whom we sin against, only He can pardon us.

How Are We Justified?

How are we justified according to the following verses?

- Galatians 2:16—**Faith or belief**_____

- Romans 3:24; Titus 3:7—**God's grace**_____

- Romans 5:1—**Faith**_____

- Romans 5:9—**Christ's blood**_____

God makes justification possible through Christ's sacrifice, and we apply it to ourselves personally by accepting Christ through faith.

The Results of Justification

What are the blessed results of justification according to the following verses?

- Romans 5:1—We have peace with God.

- Titus 3:7—God makes us heirs of eternal life.

The Cost of Justification

- According to Romans 3:24, how much does justification cost us? Why?
It costs us nothing, because it is a gift.

»Reconciliation

Reconciliation means “to restore friendship and harmony.” To reconcile means to make peace with an enemy. Before salvation, we are enemies of God.

The Need for Reconciliation

- According to Romans 8:5–8, why are people at odds with God?
Their flesh—sin nature—rules them.

The Means of Reconciliation

Read Colossians 1:19–22. Christ is preeminent because He is God. As God, He is able to reconcile us to the Father through His sacrificial death.

- According to this passage, into what kind of people does God make us through reconciliation?
He makes us holy and without blame.

So we see that reconciliation—like justification and remission—is something that God does by His grace. We cannot do anything to change our state before God. The only way we can be saved is through faith in Christ, who died on the cross and shed His precious blood to redeem, justify, and reconcile us.

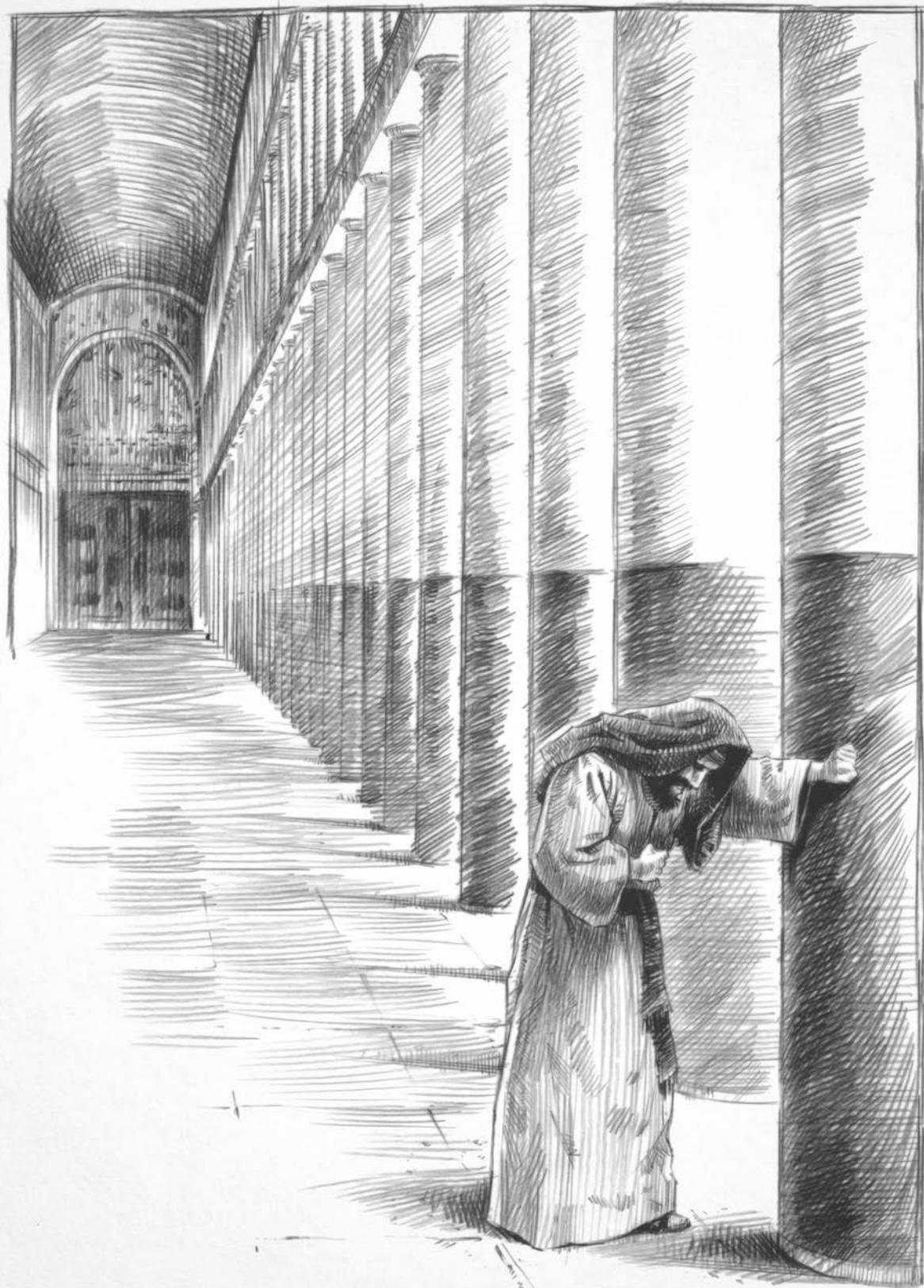
»Summary

Complete the following.

- Through God's justification, I have been declared innocent or righteous.
- Through God's redemption, I have been purchased by His blood.
- Through God's regeneration, I have been born again.
- Through God's reconciliation, I have peace with Him.
- Through God's remission, my sins have been forgiven.

God does these things when I repent of my sin through faith.

- Have you trusted Christ alone to save you from your sins?
Answers will vary.



LESSON 3

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Teacher's Lesson

» The Importance of the Question

- The **present** _____ condition of humanity
 - The unsaved
 - » No **joy** _____ or understanding
 - » **Corrupt** _____ and contaminated
 - The saved
 - » **Joyful** _____
 - » Understand **spiritual** _____ things
 - » **Pure** _____
 - The **eternal** _____ condition of humanity
 - The unsaved spend eternity in **torment** _____
(Mark 9:46)
 - » Eternally
 - » Physically
- Luke 16:19–31—The man in hell has . . .
eyes; ears; a tongue; a mind; pain

- The saved spend eternity in **heaven** _____ (John 14:2)

» The Answer to the Question

- Wrong answers
 - Be **baptized** _____
 - **Join** _____ the church
 - Do good **deeds** _____
 - **Clean up** _____ your life
- The right answer
 - Believe** _____ (Acts 16:31)—“to confidently trust”
 - » About Jesus
 - Lord—Christ is our **Master** _____
 - Jesus—means “Jehovah **saves** _____”
 - Christ—means “**Anointed** _____ One”
 - Jesus **rose** _____ again (1 Cor. 15:17–22)
 - » About myself
 - I am a **sinner** _____ (Rom. 5:18)
 - I can **live** _____ because Jesus died and rose again (Rom. 5:20–21)

Word Power

- » **Saved**—the state of having accepted and believed Jesus Christ
- » **Unsaved**—the state of not having accepted and believed Jesus Christ
- » **Baptism**—a visual aid that signifies identification as Christ’s follower; commanded by Christ
- » **Belief**—faith; confident trust in something or someone

Student Work

Read Acts 16:25–31. Paul cast a demon out of a girl, and as a result, her owners accused Paul and Silas of disturbing the peace and had them thrown into prison. Despite their unjust imprisonment, they worshiped God and shared the gospel. Their actions and words sparked the interest of the jailer.

- In verse 30, the jailer asked Paul and Silas, “What must I do to be saved?”
 - How did they answer?
Believe in the Lord Jesus.
-

»What Does Not Save a Person?

- According to Ephesians 2:8–9, by what means does salvation come to us?
It is given by the grace of God.
 - Salvation is not by works (v. 9).
 - What is the reason that we can’t earn our own salvation (v. 9)?
If we could earn it, we could take the credit for it.
-
- Because we can do nothing but depend wholly on Christ, who gets the credit for our salvation? God

So ultimately, salvation is not about our benefit, but about God’s glory.

But what about doing good things? Can’t we glorify God *and* receive salvation by being a good person?

Read Acts 10:1–2, 34–43. Up to this point, Peter and the apostles had focused on preaching the gospel exclusively to the Jews. But God sent a message to Peter to emphasize that the gospel is for Jew and Gentile alike (v. 28). Afterward, Peter paid a visit to Cornelius, a Gentile, and preached the gospel to him and his household. God used his visit to prompt the inclusion of the Gentiles into the church.

- What was Cornelius’ rank? Centurion
-

A *centurion* was a Roman army officer in charge of about one hundred soldiers.

- How does verse 2 describe this man's attitude toward God?

He was devout and feared God.

- Despite his piety, what did Cornelius still need to do to be saved (see Peter's words in Acts 10:43)?

Believe on Jesus

Even though Cornelius had a reputation for fearing God—a good attitude to have—he still needed to accept Christ by faith for salvation.

»What Does Save a Person?

Read Romans 10:9. This verse fleshes out what we are doing when we place our faith in Christ.

- We believe—that is, accept as truth and apply personally—that Jesus died for our sin and rose again for our justification. This isn't merely intellectual acknowledgement. Belief in this truth will change us, thereby creating a personal impact on our lives.
- In addition, we are willing to communicate to others that Jesus is Lord—that is, our new Master. He has the ultimate authority over our life, and we are ultimately accountable to Him.
- Both belief and declaration of that belief need to be present in our faith. If we believe, then we will have a desire to publicly demonstrate that we now belong to Christ.
- The last phrase of Romans 10:9 promises what happens when we trust Christ as our Lord and Savior. What does it say will happen when you confess and believe? You will be saved.

Think About It

- Have you done this? Answers will vary.

- Why or why not?
Answers will vary.
-

» The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

In Luke 18, Jesus relates a story with an important truth.

Read Luke 18:9–17. In this passage, Jesus contrasts two people.

A *Pharisee* was a member of a Jewish religious sect. In Jesus' time, Pharisees had a reputation for their displays of piety. Some, like Nicodemus, had genuine interest in Christ's message.

Tax collectors, or *publicans*, collected tribute for the Roman government, who occupied Israel during this time. They were despised by the Romans for being Jewish, and they were detested by the Jews for serving Rome. They were known for their dishonesty, greed, and immoral lifestyle. Matthew, one of the Twelve Apostles, was a tax collector before he followed Jesus.

- What were these two men doing in the Temple?
They were praying.
- What was the Pharisee's attitude toward himself?
He was self-righteous.
- How did the tax collector describe himself?
As a sinner
- Which one did Jesus say was justified by God?
The tax collector

Faith for salvation requires that we view ourselves realistically—as sinners in dire need of salvation. Not only do we come to God empty-handed, but we also approach Him as a defeated rebel seeking His mercy. We must entirely depend on His grace for our salvation. If we do, He promises to save us.

